

**From:** jonathon <islamia@swbell.net>  
**To:** <mtl@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** 10/28/02 11:54AM  
**Subject:** LES White Papers

10/2/02  
67 FR 61932  
(24)

MICHAEL LESAR  
Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch  
Division of Administration Services  
Office of Administration  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

- (1) It is unacceptable that the NRC is even considering this effort by an intending license applicant to manipulate the licensing procedure in its favor.
- (2) The content of the white papers reveals that LES is seeking prejudgment on issue areas that have caused it trouble in the past, or on issues which are potentially problematic. The submission of these memoranda is an overt attempt on the part of LES to evade thorough public and government investigation in areas where the company knows itself to be vulnerable.
- (3) The specific issues raised by LES in the white papers are themselves problematic. To restrict or exempt full consideration of such weighty matters as the comparative environmental impact of a "no action" alternative, environmental justice, the consortium's financial qualifications, anti-trust concerns, foreign control and ownership issues, and the disposition of tailings, would reduce NRC's licensing procedure to a flimsy rubber-stamp and further erode public confidence in the agency as an effective regulator.
- (4) A dangerous precedent would be set if the NRC allows LES to manipulate the licensing procedure in this way. It is highly improper for the NRC to allow a potential license applicant to define the parameters of licensing considerations, in effect, calling for prejudgment in their favor. This violates NRC's own licensing regulations, undermines even the pretense of objectivity in the agency's licensing activities, and calls into question the ability of the NRC Commissioners to be a dispassionate appeals body for Atomic Safety and Licensing Board actions.
- (5) Also, request that the comment period on these white papers be extended to at least 90 days. The allotted period is insufficient, if meaningful public participation is the goal, especially given the breadth of issues dealt with in the white papers, difficulties in accessing these documents, and the level of controversy surrounding the LES proposal.

Sincerely,  
Jonathon Tromm  
1315 Avenue E  
Galveston, Texas 77550

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not knowing truth does not diminish truth

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ER105-ADM-03  
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**Mail Envelope Properties** (3DBD6B9A.D99 : 3 : 48537)

**Subject:** LES White Papers  
**Creation Date:** 10/28/02 10:11AM  
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**Created By:** [islamia@swbell.net](mailto:islamia@swbell.net)

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MESSAGE	2255	10/28/02 10:11AM
Mime.822	3120	

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**Priority:** Standard  
**Reply Requested:** No  
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**Security:** Standard